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City Council
City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu, Hawaii
11th Session, 2017

RE: Bill 70 (2017) Relating to Smoking
Date of Hearing: September 6, 2017; Time: 10:00 am
Place: Kapolei Hale, conference rooms A, B, and C

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Testimony of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kauai

TO THE HONORABLE RON MENOR, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

The County of Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney strongly supports Bill 70, which would prohibit smoking and vaping in all motor vehicles on O'ahu in which a minor is present. This office strongly supported a similar successful bill last year in the Kaua'i County Council and we ask you to join the County of Kaua'i in protecting the keiki of Hawaii from secondhand smoke.

Smoking in a confined area where a child is present subjects the child to secondhand smoke and its potential – and probable – health hazards. Science has shown that secondhand smoke in a car can be up to ten times more toxic than what the EPA considers unhealthy air quality, even when a window is down. Secondhand smoke is especially harmful to keiki because keiki generally breathe at a faster rate than adults and their lungs are still developing.

Passing smoke-free cars into law will help decrease our children's exposure to secondhand smoke and educate parents and other adults about the dangers of smoking in a car when a minor is present.

This office respectfully asks that you pass Bill 70 to help make Honolulu the third county in Hawai'i (joining the Big Island and Kaua'i) to eliminate smoking in cars when a minor is present.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Bill 70.